

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing a user access to an extended color gamut digital image and for obtaining payment therefor, comprising the steps of:
 - a) representing the extended color gamut digital image with a limited color gamut digital image and one or more associated residual image(s) representing a difference between the extended color gamut digital image and the limited color gamut digital image;
 - b) storing the limited color gamut digital image and the associated residual images(s) in an electronic memory;
 - c) providing the user or user's designee access to the limited color gamut digital image in the electronic memory to provide a preview image;
 - d) obtaining a payment identifier from the user and making payment using such payment identifier to permit the user or user's designee access to the associated residual image(s); and
 - e) providing the user or user's designee access to the associated residual image(s) in the electronic memory.
2. The method of claim 1 where the electronic memory is a network server.
3. The method of claim 1 where the electronic memory is a computer readable storage medium.
4. The method of claim 1 where the payment identifier includes information about an account from which payment is to be electronically transferred.
5. The method of claim 1 where the payment identifier includes a credit card account where the payment is to be debited.

6. The method of claim 5 further including the step of providing a reader for reading a credit card from the user.
7. The method of claim 1 where the limited color gamut digital image is in a particular device dependent color space.
8. The method of claim 7 where the device dependent color space is a video RGB color space.
9. The method of claim 8 further including the step of previewing the digital image by displaying the limited color gamut digital image on a video display.
10. The method of claim 1 where the preview image is provided to a user or a user's designee using a communications network.
11. The method of claim 1 where the residual image(s) are stored as meta-data in a digital image file.
12. The method of claim 1 where the limited color gamut digital image is stored in a first digital image file, and the residual image(s) are stored in one or more additional digital image files.
13. The method of claim 1 further including the step of using the residual image(s) together with the limited color gamut digital image to form a reconstructed extended color gamut digital image.
14. The method of claim 13 further including the step of applying a desirable image modification to the reconstructed extended color gamut digital image.

15. The method of claim 14 where the desirable image modification is interactively user specified.

16. The method of claim 14 where the desirable image modification is determined by applying an automatic algorithm to the digital image.

17. The method of claim 14 where the desirable image modification includes applying modified color reproduction aims to the image.

18. The method of claim 1 further including the step of using the residual image(s) together with the limited color gamut digital image to form a digital image appropriate for display on an output device having a color gamut different than the limited color gamut.

19. The method of claim 1 where the extended color gamut digital image originates from a scan of a photographic negative.

20. The method of claim 1 where the extended color gamut digital image originates from a scan of a photographic transparency.

21. The method of claim 1 where the extended color gamut digital image originates from a scan of a photographic print.

22. The method of claim 1 where the extended color gamut digital image originates from a digital camera.

23. The method of claim 1 where the residual image(s) are determined by computing a difference between the extended color gamut digital image represented in an extended storage color space and the limited color gamut digital image represented in a storage color space.

24. A method for manipulating an extended color gamut digital image and for obtaining payment therefor, comprising the steps of:

- a) representing the extended color gamut digital image with a limited color gamut digital image and one or more associated residual image(s) representing a difference between the extended color gamut digital image and the limited color gamut digital image;
- b) storing the limited color gamut digital image and the associated residual images(s) in an electronic memory;
- c) providing the user or user's designee access to the limited color gamut digital image in the electronic memory to provide a preview image;
- d) obtaining a payment identifier from the user and making payment using such payment identifier in order to provide the user or user's designee access to the associated residual image(s);
- e) specifying a desirable modification to the image; and
- f) using the residual image(s) together with the limited color gamut digital image and the specified desirable modification to the image to produce a modified digital image.

25. The method of claim 24 where the desirable image modification is interactively user specified.

26. The method of claim 24 where the desirable image modification is determined by applying an automatic algorithm to the digital image.

27. The method of claim 24 where the desirable image modification includes applying modified color reproduction aims to the image.

28. A computer storage product having at least one computer storage medium having instructions stored therein causing one or more computers to perform the method of claim 1.

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